

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

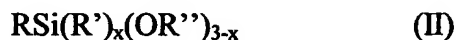
Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of preparing a treated silica substrate comprising the sequential steps of:

- a) providing silica particles;
- b) contacting the silica particles with a polysiloxane; and
- c) contacting the silica particles with an organosilane.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein the silica particles are provided by precipitation.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein the organosilane is described by the formula:



wherein R is a long-chain hydrocarbon group having between about 8 to about 30 carbon atoms, and optionally contains organofunctional groups selected from the group consisting of vinyl, methacryl, amino, sulfur, and epoxy groups;

R' and R'' are independently selected from the group consisting of a methyl and an ethyl;
and

X is either 0 or 1.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): The polymer composition according to claim [14] 19, further comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of epoxy resin, polyurethanes, polyesters, silicones, and hydrocarbon oils.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The polymer composition according to claim [14] 19, wherein the STI of the polymer composition is about 1.2 to about 100.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (New): The treated silica substrate produced by the method of Claim 10.

Claim 19 (New): A polymer composition comprising the treated silica substrate of Claim 18.

Claim 20 (New): The polymer composition of Claim 16 wherein the STI of the polymer composition is about 1.4 to about 5.